

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 4, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 166

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, and Williams)

July 1, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 166—Relative to Dropout Recovery Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 166, as amended, Atkins. Dropout Recovery Week

This measure would declare the week of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout Recovery Week, and would state that the Legislature intends to encourage the support of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies, alternative assessments, and adequate resources.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The America's Promise Alliance found, in 2014,
2 that pupils drop out of high school because they are overwhelmed
3 by the effects of toxic living conditions such as homelessness,
4 violent surroundings, abuse or neglect, and catastrophic family
5 health events; and

6 WHEREAS, The 2014 Building a GradNation Report found
7 that the nation cannot achieve its graduation goals without
8 increasing California's graduation rate for Latino and African
9 American pupils and without providing more investment for
10 dropout recovery; and

11 WHEREAS, Research by the Alliance for Excellent Education
12 concludes that if only one-half of the dropouts from a single year
13 were to earn a diploma, the economic benefits to California would
14 include an additional \$1.4 billion in earnings annually for the
15 reengaged pupils and an annual increase in state and local tax
16 revenues of \$167 million; and

17 WHEREAS, Research further shows that reengaged learners
18 demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement, contribute to the
19 cultural strength of their communities, and are significantly less
20 likely to be unemployed, on public assistance, or arrested for a
21 violent crime; and

22 WHEREAS, Research by WestEd demonstrates the challenges
23 faced by schools seeking to reengage dropouts in that one-half of
24 the dropouts who return to school stay for one year or less,
25 one-third of returning dropouts fail to complete even one course
26 after they reenroll, and as few as 18 percent of returning dropouts
27 graduate; and

28 WHEREAS, Successful dropout recovery high schools in
29 California are operating under Section 52052.3 of the Education
30 Code in partnership with the Workforce Investment Act, the
31 California Conservation Corps, and other federal and state career
32 technical education partners to provide significant social, economic,
33 and academic benefits for their pupils and for California's
34 population as a whole; and

35 WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools
36 utilize multiple strategies, including accelerated learning
37 pedagogies, competency-based instruction, and open entry-open
38 exit enrollment; and

39 WHEREAS, These successful dropout recovery high schools
40 attract and retain high-quality staff committed to transforming

1 their pupils from being at risk of failure to being at promise of
2 success; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the week
5 of August 4, 2014, to August 10, 2014, inclusive, as Dropout
6 Recovery Week, in honor of the schools and staff who work to
7 reengage pupils who have previously dropped out of school, and
8 in honor of the pupils who overcome significantly personal
9 challenges to reengage in high school and become transformed
10 learners in preparation for college and a future career; and be it
11 further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to encourage the support
13 of dropout recovery high schools with creative teaching strategies,
14 alternative assessments, and adequate resources; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.